

**But God Said, "Thou Fool..."** (Luke 12:13-21)

*God Interrupts Our Living*

**Proposition:** Every person in this room must be confronted by this parable from the lips of the Lord Jesus and take note of three characteristics found there in.

- I. **Be Aware of the Fullness of His Life** (Vs. 15-18)
  - A. His Financial Profit (Vs. 15-17)
  - B. His Future Plans (Vs. 18)
- II. **Be Attentive to the Foolishness of His Life** (Vs. 19)
  - A. His Possessions were the Authority of His Days (Vs. 19)
  - B. His Plans were Absent of the Divine (Vs. 19)
- III. **Be Alarmed by the Fall of His Life** (Vs. 20-21)
  - A. A Sudden Fall (Vs. 20a)
  - B. A Single Fall (Vs. 20b)
  - C. A Sobering Fall (Vs. 21)

## F. C. KEENEY DIES SUDDENLY

Wealthy New York Business Man  
Succumbs at Santa Barbara.

*Special to The New York Times.*

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., May 13.—Fred C. Keeney, a wealthy New York business man, died here to-day from the grip. His death was unexpected. He was born in Brooklyn July 21, 1865. Mr. Keeney was a large stockholder in The Brooklyn Daily Eagle and the Prudential Insurance Company of New Jersey. He was also the President of a New Jersey elevator company.

Mr. Keeney left New York a year ago and came here to live. He is survived by a widow and two small children. He also left a brother, Seth A. Keeney of this city, and a sister, Mrs. H. Swegel, who lives in Brooklyn.

*Rev.*  
~~at~~ William Howell Taylor.

The Rev. William Howell Taylor, 80 years old, died suddenly in Richmond, Va., on Monday. He was born in this city and educated at New York University and Yale University. After graduation from Yale in 1855 he spent a year abroad and then entered Princeton Theological Seminary, from which he graduated in 1859. In 1860 he became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Clifton, S. I. When the civil war broke out he became Superintendent of the Christian Mission in the Department of the South. The Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, recruited in Brooklyn and known as "Perry's Saints," urged him to become their chaplain, and he remained with the regiment until the end of the war. In 1869 he joined the Greenpoint Presbyterian Church as pastor. In 1875 his health failed and he was forced to reside in the South. Mr. Taylor is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Alanson Trask Enos of this city and Mrs. A. D. P. Gilmour of Chester, S. C.

But God Said "Then Fool..." (LK 12:13-21)

I stumbled on an article in the New York Times from the year 1914.

It was the obituaries for May 14th. On the previous day Fred C. Keeney

a wealthy New York business man died suddenly just before his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. He was a large stockholder in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and the Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey and also the president of a New Jersey elevator company. He had left New York to live in Santa Barbara, Cal. Directly below this

article was for Rev William Taylor 80 years old that died a few days before. After graduating from Seminary in 1859, he served God as a pastor & chaplain for a total of 1859. God interrupted health lines. But who do you think was rich toward God. That's the point that Jesus is making in this parable. In the end, when God interrupts our lives it's not important our possessions or position on this earth. It will be about our treasures.

I. Be Aware of the Fullness of His Life

(Vs. 16-18) The Lord Jesus paints the picture of a man that had life by the tail. He was successful & wealthy. There was



Nothing that seemed to lay outside his grasp. **A. His Financial Profit (Vs 15-17):** Most of the economy in that time was agrarian, so to possess lands that were exceptionally fertile meant that you were on top of the financial world. His lands produced so well that in Vs 17 his bulging barn were he replaced for larger ones. He had struck it rich. <sup>①</sup> John De Rockefeller had. That's what happened to this man. If there had been a "Forbes" Magazine or a "Fortune" Mag his face would have been plastered all over them. He was financially successful.

**B. His Future Plans (Vs. 18)** - Upon this encounter with great financial wealth he does what every one of us dreams of doing: Retires early. Vs 19 the word "Laid" means "to stretch out". He had gained so much wealth, that once stored in the barn he was planning to build, he could live happily for years to come. Now you might say, "What's wrong with that?" I mean every body wants to do well and provide for family's needs. Every person ought to be good stewards of what God gives them.

**II. Be Attentive to the Foolishness of His Life (Vs 19)** - This man was probably bright and intelligent. He was shrewd and wise in his dealings. Yet God calls him a fool.

1) ...about our treasures toward God. Every person in this room must be confronted by this parable from the lips of the Lord Jesus and take note of three characteristics found there in.

2) John D. Rockefeller's had three simple rules for anyone who wants to become rich: 1. Go to work early. 2. Stay at work late. 3. Find oil.

3) ...God gives them. That's not to be condemned. We ought to pray and strive to be prosperous. We ought save and prepare for the future. But in the midst of all this there is a flaw which Jesus begins to reveal.

- 1) ...unrestrained lusts of our heart can cause us to be just as foolish as this man in our poverty, than in his wealth.

- 2) ...Liddy said "I have found within myself all I need and all I shall ever need. I am a man of great faith, but my faith is in George Gordon Liddy. I have never failed me."



Why did God call him a fool. Read vs 15...

### A. His Possessions were the Authority of His Days

This man's whole world was dominated by his possessions. What's the old saying "It's not a sin to have money, it's a sin when money has you." vs 17 "I do" "I have" vs 18 "I do" "I will" vs 19 "I will" He even bragging to himself about his wealth. "my fruits" "my harvest", "my goods" "my soul." These possessions bound him, consumed him, and directed him. Sometimes rear its sinful head. You don't have to be wealthy to be right where this fool is. The unrestrained lust for

### B. His Plans were Absent of the Divine

I am struck by verse 16. The ground brought forth. He may own the deed to the property but this rich man could not cause the seed to germinate, he could not provide the sun and rain necessary for growth. Yet it was all me, my, & mine. God was completely absent from this man's life. That's why God called him a fool. He had no room for God in his life. Media figure G. Gordon Liddy said, Many live their lives in such a mind set

But God as we will see. Interrupt that living

### III. Be Alarmed by the Fall of His Life

(vs 20-21) - In the midst of this man's plans for the year of living he planned to do, God announces some plans of his own that

will not be revoked over ruled or denied.

A. A Sudden Fall (Vs 20) This night...

He planned for <sup>months</sup> years and decades into the future when in truth he only had hours minutes and seconds of future left! God had set an appointment with death just around the corner. I think of those Christmas Killings last month. All had bright hopes for tomorrow when many of them would <sup>1</sup> never make it. James 4:14

B. A Single Fall (Vs 20b) - These possessions that he labored for, that he lived for, that he leaned on could not be taken with him in death. I recently heard a story of a man John Jacobs who was buried w/ cell phone. Wife Marjorie plays the lull and leaves him voice mails. He doesn't answer! Your iPhone is not going with you. Your house, car, and money will be fought over by kids!

C. A Sobering Fall (Vs 21) - The teaching of Jesus ought to cause us to think. Vs 21 indicates that despite his great wealth, he was destitute, bankrupt and homeless when it came to God. Vs 20 "this night... required" required is a banker's term. Means to call in a loan. He may "My" <sup>2</sup> soul but Ezekiel 18:4

IV Closing. I recently read a story of a conversation between an ambitious God has the ability to But in and interrupt our listening and in that interrupts the only thing that matters is whether we were saved and serving God!



1) James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow.  
For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a  
little time, and then vanisheth away.

2) Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine;...the soul that sinneth, it  
shall die.

3) Young man and an old man. They were discussing the future.  
The young man told of how he was going to learn a trade. The  
old man asked, "And then?" "I will set up my business," said the  
young man. "And then," the old man asked again. "I will make  
my fortune." "And then?" "I shall grow old and retire and live on  
the money I have earned." "And then?" "Well, I suppose that  
someday I will die." With one final time, the old man asked,  
"And then?"